

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an operating device which is provided for operating an appliance and which comprises a hand-actuated operating part on which at least one light detector is provided in the gripping area of the hand. The light detector and an evaluating circuit make it possible to detect when a hand is approaching the guide handle or when the hand is gripping the same. The evaluating circuit accordingly activates a control device which optionally places the appliance in operation.

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